

REMARKS

Claims 1-10, 13-16, and 18-21, are all the claims pending in the application. Previously claims 11, 12, and 17, were canceled without prejudice or disclaimer. New claim 21 has been added to further define the invention. Reconsideration and allowance of all the claims are respectfully requested in view of the following remarks.

Claim Rejections - 35 U.S.C. § 103

- The Examiner rejected claims 15 and 20 under §103(a) as being unpatentable over US Patent 5,132,856 to Takahashi (hereinafter Takahashi) in view of US Patent 5,882,121 to Saigusa (hereinafter Saigusa). Applicants respectfully traverse this rejection because the references fail to teach or suggest all of the elements as set forth and arranged in the claims.

Claim 15 sets forth a sheet covering a gap between the inner ring and the outer ring and disposed externally on an extreme endmost side of the other end part in the axial direction of the bearing device, the sheet being bonded on at least one of the outward flange part of the housing, the inner ring and the outer ring.

By way of non-limiting example, as shown in Figs. 1 and 2 of the present application, one embodiment consistent with that in claim 15 includes a sheet 14a that is disposed externally on an extreme endmost side of the housing 2, the inner ring 11, and the outer ring 9. That is, the sheet 14a is disposed externally of the housing 2, the inner ring 11, and the outer ring 9.

On the contrary, Fig. 5 of Takahashi shows a sheet 17 that is disposed between an inner ring 9 and an outer ring 7 so as to be within the gap defined therebetween. That is, the sheet 17 is disposed internally and within the gap. Accordingly Takahashi fails to disclose a sheet that is disposed externally and on an extreme endmost side of the other end part in the axial direction of the bearing device, the sheet being bonded on at least one of the outward flange part of the housing, the inner ring and the outer ring, as set forth in claim 15.

The Examiner relies on Saigusa as teaching a detachable bonding force. In addition to the impropriety of the Examiner's reliance on Saigusa, this reference fails to cure the above noted deficiencies in Takahashi.

Therefore, even assuming that one of ordinary skill in the art were motivated to combine Takahashi and Saigusa as suggested by the Examiner, the above-mentioned arrangement of the sheet—as claimed—is not disclosed. Therefore, claim 15 is not obvious over Takahashi in view of Saigusa.

Furthermore, according to the present invention, since the sheet 14a is exposed to outside, the sheet 14a can be easily attached. Therefore, the claim 15 arrangement has great advantages over Saigusa and Takahashi.

For at least the above reasons, claim 15 is patentable over Takahashi in view of Saigusa. Likewise, dependent claim 20 is patentable over these references.

- The Examiner rejected claim 16 under §103(a) as being unpatentable over Takahashi in view of Saigusa, and further in view of US Patent 5,596,235 to Yazaki et al. (hereinafter Yazaki). Applicants respectfully traverse this rejection because the references fail to teach or suggest all of the elements as set forth and arranged in the claims.

As noted above, Takahashi and Saigusa are deficient.

The Examiner relies on Yazaki as teaching a the use of an ultraviolet ray irradiation on adhesive for curing or detaching. Without commenting on the propriety of the Examiner's reliance on Yazaki, this reference fails to cure the above noted deficiencies in Takahashi and Saigusa.

Therefore, even assuming that one of ordinary skill in the art were motivated to combine Takahashi, Saigusa and Yazaki as suggested by the Examiner, the above-mentioned arrangement of the sheet—as claimed—is still not taught or suggested by the references. Therefore, claim 16 is not obvious over Takahashi in view of Saigusa and Yazaki.

New Claim

New claim 21 has been added to further define the invention. Claim 21 depends from claim 15 and, therefore, is allowable at least by virtue of its dependency.

Allowable Subject Matter

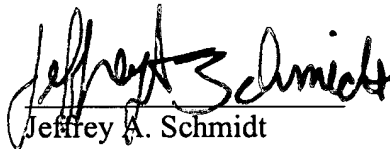
Applicants thank the Examiner for indicating that claims 1-10, 13, 14, 18, and 19, are allowed.

Conclusion

In view of the above, reconsideration and allowance of this application are now believed to be in order, and such actions are hereby solicited. If any points remain in issue which the Examiner feels may be best resolved through a personal or telephone interview, the Examiner is kindly requested to contact the undersigned at the telephone number listed below.

The USPTO is directed and authorized to charge all required fees, except for the Issue Fee and the Publication Fee, to Deposit Account No. 19-4880. Please also credit any overpayments to said Deposit Account.

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